C.U.

LONGSIGHT NEWS

No.... 4 APRIL-MAY 75 .... 4p

Fun at the Valentine Social

See p 5

SHORT-TIME AT McVITIES

"No comment" said the managing director when Longsight News contacted him about the short-time working. We talked to workers at the factory and looked up various reports to get our information about the firm. It provides work for 950 people in Longsight/Levenshulme: 600 day-workers and 350 night workers. If the managing director will not comment, we will, by looking at the facts.

Unsold Biscuits

The union USDAW have agreed to comply with short-time working (one or two days off every 3 weeks until the April budget discloses any tax relief on biscuits etc)

According to what the workers are being told, £9 million worth of biscuits are lying in store in this country because people can't afford to buy luxury goods with prices of ordinary groceries going up week by week. If this stock goes up to £12 million the firm will be in financial trouble, and workers would be made redundant.

If this is the situation, surely McVities must consider lowering the price of biscuits. Biscuits and sweets are pretty expensive at the present eg Penguins 16p for 6, Wholewheat 25p for 12, Chocolate Fingers 16p for 26. The management would argue that repidly rising raw materials like cereals and sugar, and the introduction of VAT on chocolates and crisps makes production more expensive. But for many years, this country has benefitted from obtaining goods like cheap sugar from developing countries. The workers who produce the sugar are often near to starvation because of low wages from their employers, and low prices for the sugar they produce. It is only right that we pay a fair price for imported goods so we do not rob workers in developing countries of their livelihood.

The Facts.

The Financial Times on 19.3.75 reported that United Biscuits (comprising McVities, McFarlanes, Meredith & Drew, Crawfords) made a PROFIT BEFORE TAX OF £13,805 MILLION. Mr Hector Laing, chairman of the executive board also said that a further profit would be made in 1975. £500,000 was spent last year advertising one range of buiscuits on TV.

contd. p4.

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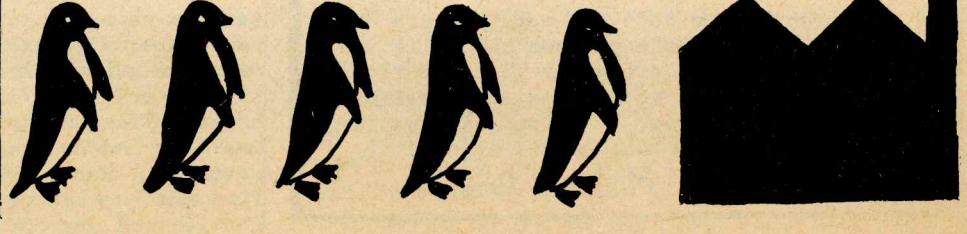


Manchester-Periodicals A-Z

A SPATE OF VIOLENCE

A man was going home from the Carousel at 2am one night when he was asked for a light in Men Mentor St by a man who then struck him in the chest. He fought back but the man stabbed him in the ribs. He was next stabbed in the mouth but managed to knock his attacker to the floor and run to his own door. The man ran off. In the previous week another man was attacked and robbed, despite putting up a fight, by 4 men in Laindon Rd. Next night a man from Dublin was robbed by 2 men near the Lancaster pub. And next night again a man from Clitheroe Rd. was approached and robbed by 2 men in Portland Rd.

Several other cases occurred in this area around Christmas but they have died down now.

The 4 men attacked are all working men from Ireland. In all these cases the attackers were black. But robbing is not confined to black people. On 22nd Feb 2 white lads knocked an elderly woman down and took her bag in the entry near Tesco's. And that night Joseph Coogan was robbed and killed in Park Grove for which 4 white people have been charged.

The reason young black people attack for money is the same as why young whites do: life is boring, money can kill the boredom and the quickest way to get money is robbing.

Why is life boring?
For young blacks few good jobs are open. They are kept in the lower grade classes in school because life afterwards doesn't hold any prospects for them. Young white "misfits", neglected at home, by their neighbours and in school also turn out bitter and hard.

The Town Hall, ie. our councillors and officials must take a lot of the blame for future violence in Longsight. There are no equipped recreation halls here; most money is going into roads and district centre building so that well-to-do commuters and business people from out-of-town who don't have to live with muggings can rape this poorer neighbourhood with their cars and their businesses even more. There are near 20,000 people in this ward and the supposed Longsight Sports Centre has been pushed to the bottom of the list.

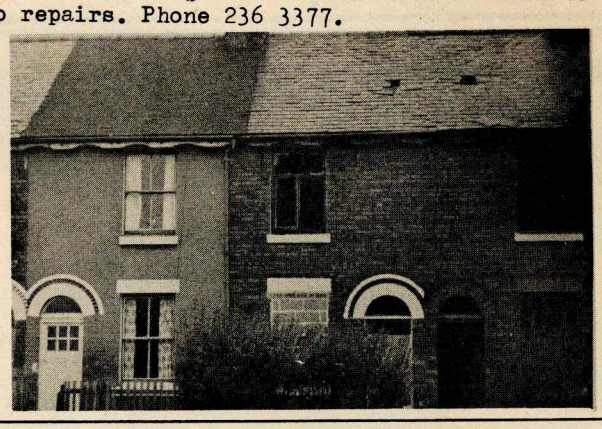
Every town hall official from traffic-happy Mr Read to our councillors Ford, Taylor and Malpas, bear their share of the blame.

We can breathe and hope the muggings are over for now. But the violence goes on. It is the violence being done every day to our children by our neglect, and to our next-door-neighbour by our unfriendliness. If we pulled together much more Longsight could avoid street violence.

Michael Brennan

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hamer Terrace. According to the Clearance Section in the town hall, council take-over of Hamer Terrace and Cayton St will "not be before October".
The Helth Dept should get empty houses bricked up and also get onto landlords who fail to do repairs. Phone 236 3377.



Kinross St clearance area. Council takeover will be "about September"

Financial support has been granted by the Recreational Services Committee to develope and run a children's Adventure Playground in Longsight.

The site on Plymouth Grove West and to the East of Plymouth Grove Junior School is ideally situated and is easily accessible to children from both the new estate in Longsight and the older areas around Hathersage Rd and Victoria Park.

It will be mounded soon with the cooperation and help of M.J. FINN LTD who have used the site recently as a compound. When the fencing is erected it will provide safety as well as screening from residential areas.

In order to start and run the Adventure Playground full-time staff will be employed (PLAYLEADERS) but the importance of active voluntary help is essential to enable it to be operational this Spring.

Since 1972, Community and Social workers have put in a great deal of effort to make these recreational facilities possible. So now we ask for your support.
Enquiries welcomed: Anne Porter,
26 Lucien Close

SOUTH MANCHESTER SOCIETY FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN are now running a youth club in St John's School. Details from Lilian Fairley, 30 Willesdon Ave.

Stamford Court, after standing empty for several months, has now been bought up by the council, and used to rehouse mostly elderly people from the Anson tenants. Two of the new tenants we spoke to are very pleased with their new flats, although one woman said she would miss her garden. And it seemed strange at first to be overlooking the undertaker's, but then as her friend said "It's a sign of peace." One lady had no heating for several weeks after moving in. Her son had to get her an electric fire and she had to keep making hot water bottles and cups of tea to try and keep warm.

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MORE NEWS

The snooker Hall on Slade Lane has been closed down due to the problem of fights breaking out. Ronnie Delaney, the manager until he resigned last week, said "I'm leaving. I've had 5 years too much of it. The Friday night before it was closed there were 10 or 11 fellows fighting with knives actually inside the hall. If it had carried on someone would have been maimed or killed. The staff were in danger."

He also confirmed that fights have not occurred between black and white people, but white people have been keeping away because of the likelihood of violence. Asked if the trouble was from local people he said "No, they are from outside this area. I know the local ones, they're all right."

The hall will not re-open until a new manager is found and there will probably have to be a turnstile fitted that only admits one person at a time.

Thank God it wasn't a school day!

HAMILTON ROAD CASUALTY LIST

The record grows longer. Since our last issue news has come of accidents at :

1 Duncan Rd/Hamilton Rd corner 5.30pm one February evening.

2 Hamilton Rd. A heavy lorry went into the back of a parked car early one morning and pushed it up onto the pavement where it demolished a garden wall.

3 Stamford Rd/Hamilton Rd corner, March 21st, 6.15pm. Van and motorcyclist collided. The motorcyclist was taken to hospital.

4 Slade Grove/Hamilton Rd corner. Car and taxi crashed. 2 people taken to hospital.

5 Slade Grove/Hamilton Rd. Caroline Booker, 11, who lives in Slade Grove, knocked down by a car at 8.25am on her way to the bus for school. Kept in hospital overnight. Her parents said: "It's terrible the way cars belt".

6 Clitheroe Rd/Hamilton Rd corner (see picture). The driver was going too fast down Hamilton Rd. Suddenly he saw a group of kids about to run across. His brakes weren't good enough and he had to go into the wall to avoid them.

7 2 cars collided on the Hamilton Rd/Duncan Rd corner again on April 6th.

8 Hamilton Rd, April 8th. Dangerous overtaking resulted in a car hitting a tree and the driver being taken to hospital.

TRAFFIC TO BE SPEEDED UP

The City Engineer, Mr Read, is going ahead with his plans to install traffic lights at the junction of Hamilton Rd and Slade Lane. The declared purpose of these lights is to SPEED UP traffic on Hamilton Rd.

There will be NO green man or pedestrian control and if there is a permanent filter from Slade Lane into Hamilton Rd the lights will do nothing to make it easier to cross the road.

Parking is to be restricted at each end of the road. As it is cars come belting round into Hamilton Rd from Slade Lane and a ban on parking will encourage even more reckless driving than we get at present. There will be even more frequent accidents at the Agnes Rd and Turnbull Rd corners and on Hamilton Rd where the yellow lines stop and the bottleneck begins.

The Planning Dept prepared a scheme to restrict all the streets in this area to local traffic and ban the rat-runners altogether. Mr Read the Engineer refused to consider it.

The Traffic Action Group asked for the plans to be considered and the whole area consulted BEFORE the lights were put in. This has been refused.

BUT if you wish to object you can write or sign the coupon below.

OBJECTION TO PARKING RESTRICTIONS AT SLADE LANE/HAMILTON RD JUNCTION

I object to these measures which I believe will increase the speed of traffic entering Hamilton Rd.

This is a very dangerous Rd and we require measures that cut down on traffic, not speed it up.

Yours, ...

Address:.....

Please send to Mr Tideswell, County Hall, Piccadilly, Manchester
OR bring it round to Dorothy Graham at 181 Hamilton Rd and she will send them all in together.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE COUNCIL HAS ASKED FOR RESIDENTS VIEWS ON DEALING WITH THE TRAFFIC AND IT WILL PROBABLY BE THE LAST, SO MAKE THE MOST OF IT!

HAMILTON RD TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP c/o 181 HAMILTON RD.

REBATES
RATES

In April, rates in Manchester go up by 23%, which means that more people will be entitled to a RATE REBATE. Rebates apply to people owning houses, and to council and private tenants who pay rates as part of rent. It is possible that you are entitled to a rate rebate eg. a couple with 3 children who are earning £48 a week before tax etc, will get a rebate if their rates are £2 a week or more.

If you are not sure whether you are entitled to a rebate, apply anyway, there is nothing to lose. Write for a leaflet and form from the Rate Rebates Section, Town Hall, M/c M60.

RENT INCREASES

On 11th March this year, the law forbidding any rent increase above the amount payable on 8.3.74, came to an end. That means most people's rent will increase.

If the Rent Officer at the town hall says your rent should be increased by more than 40p a week, it will be phased over 2 or 3 years. Phasing does not apply to council house rents.

Council house rents will not necessarily increase for all council tenants. It will depend on the type of house and the sort of amenities in the house. Councils are not allowed to make a profit out of council housing any more, they just have to cover costs.

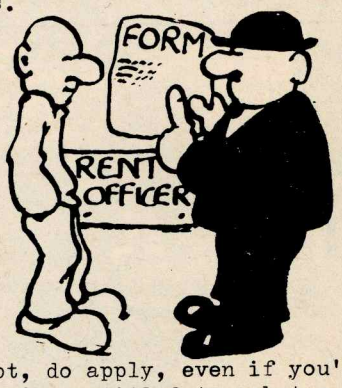
RENT REBATES

If anyone in a council house feels their rent has risen beyond their means, then apply for a RENT REBATE. The rent will be reduced by the amount of rebate. To find out more, get a leaflet and form from the Housing Dept. P.O. Box 531, Town Hall, Manchester M60.

The higher your rent, and the more dependants you have, the more you can earn and still get a rebate

RENT ALLOWANCES
(for Private Tenants)

Furnished and unfurnished tenants can apply for a rent allowance. If it is granted, then the amount is sent by Giro from the town hall. So far only 100 people in furnished accomodation have applied for rent allowances in Manchester. Thousands more are entitled to allowances.



If in doubt, do apply, even if you're not sure whether you're entitled to rebates. You may be entitled to both types of rebates or rent allowance.

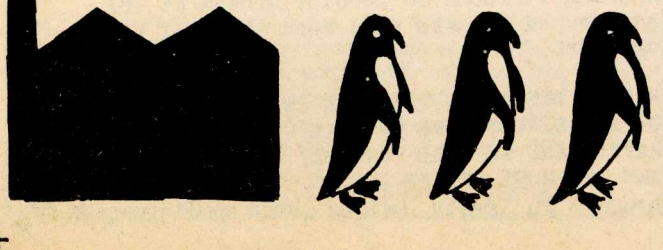
If you would like a confidential chat about these matters contact either Jim Fletcher, Welfare Rights officer, Levenshulme town hall, Tel. no. 224 0612, or the Advice Office at the Neighbourhood Centre, 113 Hamilton Rd, Tel. no. 248 6640.

SHORT TIME AT McVITIES CONTD.

All the time, big expanding companies like McVities try to make more and more profit, which the workers hardly ever see apart from the occasional pay rise. The McVities group have spent £50 million on its factories in the past 6 years to perfect working conditions and to build more factories. Of course, factories provide work and wages to live on; but while the management can feel satisfaction at their success, their fat profits; the workers are bored with the tedious work, and some, especially the younger ones, suffer from nerves.

Rewards

Large companies like McVities, in order to prosper need rewards for their workers, like comparitively good wages, holidays, subsidised canteen, cheap biscuits etc. With rising living costs, our week to week expenditure is becoming greater. McVities pay well, and that is the attraction. A part-time woman worker on the 11.30 - 3.30 shift 5 days a week gets £16.99 before tax etc, a full-time woman worker, nearly £33, a man, over £34, whilst the night workers, working 10¾ hours earn £60 (after tax etc about £40). To relieve the monotony of the work, which may just be packing biscuits, a radio blasts out pop songs 24 hours a day. The personnel staff are available for talks if you've any problems. But it still doesn't relieve the frustration of mindless, routine work.



But what happens to all the profit? Can't some of it be ploughed back into the factories to pay the wages of the employees? A reduction in the price of biscuits has already been suggested, but couldn't the management have a reduction in their wages? James Prior, MP for Lowestoft gets about £2,500 a year as a non-executive director of United Biscuits. This money is apart from the money he receives as an MP and his other interests. His U.B. money is more than many of the hard working people receive on the production line.

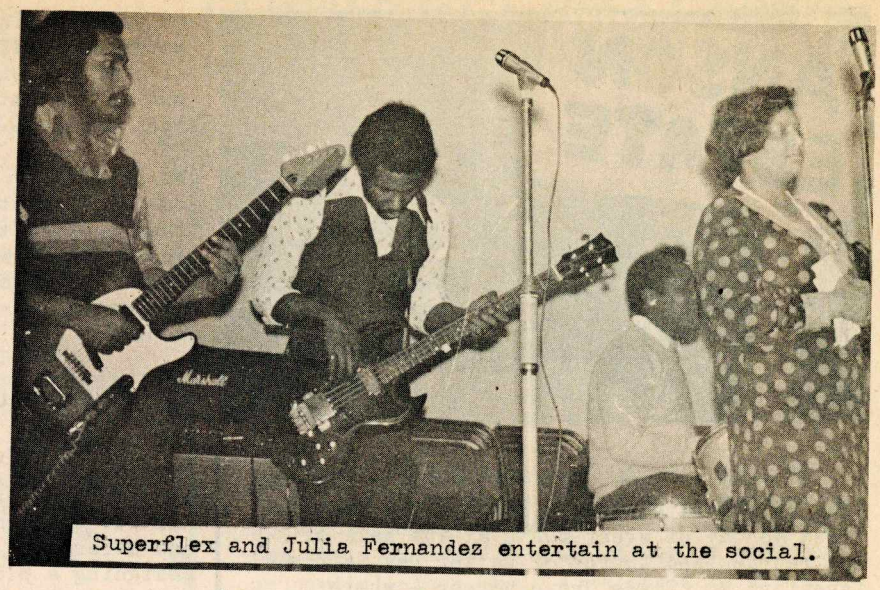
Ros Abbott

NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

113 Hamilton Road. 248 6640

At the Social and dance on 14th February we raised nearly £30 for the Centre. This money will be used for heating, lighting and phone bills, and general maintenance of the centre.

We're still collecting newspapers to sell - so keep on bringing them in! And there's adults and children's clothing and other household items for sale for a few pence to help pay the bills. Come and chat to the people in the advice office. In addition to the advice office the centre is used for Longsight News, chess evenings every Sunday, and various meetings about the area.



Superflex and Julia Fernandez entertain at the social.

The advice office has been running for just over 3 months now. We started off knowing very little about the variety of subjects that people need advice or help with. We now have more knowledge and experience in contacting social workers, town hall, housing dept and so on. We learnt more about evictions, industrial injuries, repairs, homelessness etc.

We are encouraging people to work together on similar problems eg. landlords who don't do repairs, as this often gets the best results. We hope people who visit us can pass on information and help other people they meet who have similar problems. A common problem appears to be bad landlords, who don't do repairs. Others are notices to quit, rent and rate rebates, searching for accomodation etc. Landlords can be made to do repairs through the public health jealth dept. There is protection for people who are being threatened with eviction, and help for people who need to claim supplementary benefit because of sickness, unemployment etc.

Of course there are times when even with the Centre there seems to be nothing to help but most of the time we can tell people who will be best to help and advise them, and already for some people their "fight for their rights" has been successful.

Maggie Walker

HAVE LONGSIGHT NEWS DELIVERED REGULARLY 20p for 5 issues

Fill in coupon and return with 20p to Longsight News, 113 Hamilton Road.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

IMPROVEMENTS

"THE CITY COUNCIL CAN NOW PROVIDE MORE GENEROUS HELP FOR OWNERS - BOTH OWNER-OCCUPIERS AND LANDLORDS WHO WANT TO IMPROVE AND MODERNIZE THEIR HOUSES. IT IS ABLE TO DO THIS BY MAKING A GRANT OF MONEY CALLED A HOUSE RENOVATION GRANT"

Thus says the new leaflet on House Renovation grants published by M/c Housing Dept. You pay 50% of the cost of improvements up to a maximum of £3200. So if your improvements cost £3200 you would be given a grant of £1600. It is possible to get a loan for the other £1600. If a larger house is to be converted into self-contained flats, a 50% improvement grant of up to £1600 per flat is available.

Grants are not available for repairs and replacements only. But, if you have improvements done, then part of the grant can be spent on repairs. So if you need improvements such as a damp proof course, better facilities for preparing and cooking food, electrical rewiring, structural alterations etc, then write or phone to:

The House Renovation Unit, Room 401, 4th Floor, Town Hall Extension, Manchester M60. Tel. 236 3377. They will send you the necessary improvement grant forms and offer advice on improvements and building contractors.

Tenants should contact their landlords to carry out improvements to their house. If the landlord refuses or does nothing contact the House Renovation Unit because the council can force the landlord to undertake necessary repairs.

A MESSAGE TO THOSE IN THE SLADE LANE EXCLUDED AREA

We now have the name of the Area Team Leader. He is Mr. Michael Perrett. You can contact him either by phoning him - 236 3377 ext.2222 or write to him at the Housing Dept, Town Hall

Contact Mr Perrett if you have any queries, complaints or problems about area improvements. Those who wish to sell their house to the Council, or want to be rehoused, should definitely contact Mr Perrett.

The Anson Estate tenants association meet the first Monday of every month at the hall of the reorganised Church of Latter Day Saints, Beresford Rd (Slade Grove corner - where you go to vote) at 7.30pm.

At the March meeting we had a bring and buy sale to help raise funds as an early starter for our pensioners' Christmas effort, each Xmas we try to do something different for our local elderly, to date we have done food parcels, a buffet tea, and this year we did a a 3 course meal and each had a little present to take home.

At our meetings we usually start by discussing any problems people have, and endeavour to solve them, things like housing problems, vandalism, help in filling in forms etc, then we have refreshments and bingo. Anyone is more than welcome to come and join, but for bingo its required by law that you have to be a member of the tenants association; that's easy enough though, it's only 10p a month or 5p for pensioners. We have a very informal, relaxed atmosphere and at present we have about 60 members, but only average 30 at each meeting and it's 99% ladies!!

At past meetings we have had film shows, piano entertainment, concerts, lingerie parties and kitchen utensils demonstrated, these have been put on for entertainment purposes and were much much enjoyed.

We originally formed 2½ years ago in an unsuccessful attempt to fight rent increases and then then decided to carry on meeting every month. We're always open to new ideas etc so please feel free to come along anytime, even if you are not a tenant, the first Monday of every month.

Playground

The Government has refused to give the Parks Dept the money to make a playground out of the land on the corner of Beresford Rd and Duncan Rd. But the land is there, and an architect has offered to meet tenants to talk about designing a playground, with a view to the residents themselves building and running it. Come to the next tenants meeting if you are interested, or phone Maureen Thierens 225 9546

LETTERS

Dear Longsight News,

In answer to the "Comment" in the last Longsight News in which the ideas of local teenagers for the redevelopment of the clearance area were criticized, I would say this: the Rev. Henry Mayor does not go far enough; why not a C of E nursery, a Catholic nursery, a Mohammedan nursery, a Hindu nursery, a West Indian nursery, a Baptist, Wesleyan, Methodist etc etc nurseries?

Or to be more realistic, what does the question of religious denomination have to do with children under the tender age of five? Unless the churches in question are prepared to brainwash these infants, one can see no valid reason why the children should not all gather together in one non-denominational nursery. Land is in short supply; the needs of youngsters over five for somewhere safe to play, away from the streets; for other youngsters to be able to entertain themselves in healthy sports and pastimes instead of hanging about street corners or frequenting the slot-machine halls; these are more vital for the well-being of the community than the duplication of nursery scholls.

It is high time the Christian Churches reconciled their 500 year old stupid quarrel over outworn religious dogma. A visitor from outer space would laugh his head off at the spectacle of groups of people, all worshipping a prophet preaching love and tolerance amongst men, yet with a bloody history of murder, torture and every sort of cruelty practised against each other. Nor is it finished, witness Northern Ireland where the churches have far more on their conscience than the much maligned British Army. And from what one hears, even in Longsight they cannot reconcile their petty quarrels.

I say a plague on both your houses! One nursery and one nursery only. Give the older kids a chance to get their little corner. Leave them alone Rector!

Yours sincerely,
Jack Wolstenholme

NO PROMISES For Birch Lane Residents

About 63 residents turned out for the meeting on March 6th at College Chapel with town hall officials and councillors. The meeting was chaired by Mrs Boxer and after speeches from the town hall, a variety of problems were raised and aired.

The message of Mr Blackwell, chief public health inspector was "We welcome improvement grant applications. Owners should apply staight away. Tenants should get at their landlords". This did not mean applications would be successful; the town hall was satisfied that "on external appraisal" the area looked suitable for improvement, but there would have to be a detailed inspection of each house that applied for a grant.

Cries of "Waste of time" greeted the end of Mr Blackwell's speech, from the tenants there who can never get their landlord to do repairs let alone apply for an improvement grant.

Mr Ollerenshaw from the "Environmental" section of the housing dept gave some facts and figures about the Corporation's policies. "I can offer you no promise tonight" he said. "I cannot say we will investigate your area. We are investigating every area in the city and yours is one of these."

50% now or 60% later

He pointed out that IF the area became a General Improvement Area at a later date and qualified for 60% grants, inflation might well have taken away that 10% advantage. It might well be better for those who want grants to go for 50% now.

Loans from the Corporation

The only answer forthcoming was "You can try" and "All applications will be considered".

Litter and Vandalism problems

Barbara Gratton of the Planning dept announced that work on the cleared land around St Johns Rd and Holmfirth St will start in May. It is too expensive to fence the site in, especially as "vandals" would soon demolish the fence. However anybody who sees fly-tippers should note what details they can eg. time of night, type of stuff dumped, type of vehicle, and inform the City Architects Surveyors Dept, Town Hall. They will investigate and when possible prosecute

The idea of one resident that Beatwaste containers should be put out for tippers, was already being considered by the town hall.

It is a small number of residents who are responsible for the mess in the entries. Clearly the town hall can't do anything about them. But it was recognized that until they can have a pride in their area, the problem will go on. The planners are investigating better street lighting, better cleansing services and repaving to counteract the bad effects of living on top of a clearance area.

Secretary: Mrs Barnaby, 72 Birch Lane

BACKYARD GARDENING

VEGETABLES. If you are growing vegetables it is best to follow the instructions on the seed packet, but you will probably get a better crop if you borrow or buy a gardening book which will help you to understand what you are doing. Don't forget you can grow more in a small place by putting rows of one type of plant in between rows of a more widely spaced crop for example you can put a row of cabbages between two rows of peas.

HERBS. For those of you who are sticking to a small bed of herbs you too should be sowing soon.

Parsley can be planted any time between March/April and July. It is very slow to germinate so the earlier you get it in the sooner you see results. It will grow either in open sun or partial shade. Help it along with a bit of compost if you are making a compost heap or some sort of nitrogenous fertilizer if you aren't. When it comes up thin the seedlings to to about 2" apart.

Mint will grow anywhere with a bit of shade and plenty of moisture. Once it is established in a good spot it spreads all over. It is best grown from cuttings, so find a friend who has some (if you don't know anyone ask at the neighbourhood centre). The cuttings should be set in water to form roots and then later planted ½" deeper than the roots that have formed. Plant them in April-May (if you are too late it is best to wait til August or September.)

Chives can be obtained as plants from the market if you keep your eyes open and look for them. This way the results are quicker and you aren't left with most of a packet of seeds if you only want one or two. Chives will keep going for a number of years.

Don't stop at these three, you could also grow Thyme (which lasts about 4 years before it needs replacing), sage and marjoram. These all need sunshine. They should be planted in ½" furrows with 6" between the rows. Thin to 6" apart when the best plants are 1" high. All these should be sown March-April so get out there and plant them quick.

HAPPY GARDENING

REPORT ON A6

1. The "Approved Line"

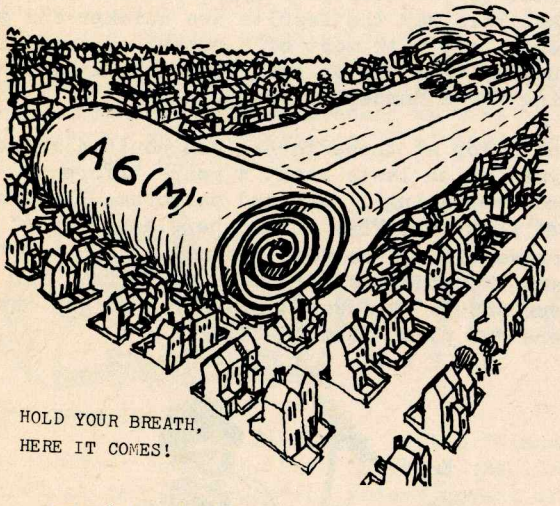
This is the OFFICIAL line of the new A6 which will probably NOT be built but as it is still official it affects improvement grant applications and whether you can serve a blight notice notice. This is the one that was shown at the exhibition in Longsight Town Hall in 1973.

The "Approved Line" takes off the corner of Crowcroft Park, the bottom of East Rd, goes through Stanley Grove school and St Cyprians, through the clearance area and then through Meldreth Drive, avoiding Victoria Terrace on the left, and up to Kirkmanshulme Lane.

2. The New "Proposed Line"

When the Greater M/c Council came into existence in April '74 it took over all the major road plans from the city council including the A6. They decided the plan should be reviewed and drew up a new one. This is the one that will probably be built - eventually - but it isn't official yet.

The New Line goes up right next to the railway. It doesn't take any of Crowcroft Park, and only the very bottom few yards of East Rd. It takes part of the school, St Cyprians hall but not the church, and after the clearance area it takes Victoria Terrace and half of Meldreth Drive.



HOLD YOUR BREATH,
HERE IT COMES!

3 Blight Notices

Several owner-occupiers have been told by the Town Hall that they cannot serve a blight notice ie. force the council to buy their house. We have tried to find out as closely as possible who can and who cannot serve a blight notice.

First of all it is important to know that the authority to approach is NOT the town hall but the Greater Manchester Council (GMC) Highways Authority in Aytoun St. These are the people in charge and we have discovered that town hall staff have turned enquirers away without telling them that they should go to the GMC.

We hope this street-by-street guide will be helpful:

EAST RD. Only the first block (nos 1-23 is affected. The "Approved" Line takes about half this row. The New "Proposed" Line will take only the first 2 or 3 houses if it is built on stilts, but about half the row if it's built with an embankment. In any case, the spokesperson for the GMC told us they don't usually chop a terrace in half, they usually take the whole lot. As far as we know the council already owns no.15 (derelict and bricked up) and no.17 (converted into flats and in perfect condition but borded up and not let).

SULLIVAN ST, ATTWOOD ST, SMART ST, MACFARREN ST, HOPKINS ST, HATTON ST.
About half ofeach of these streets is directly affected. The GMC spokesman said: "We would accept blight notices from owners on these streets".

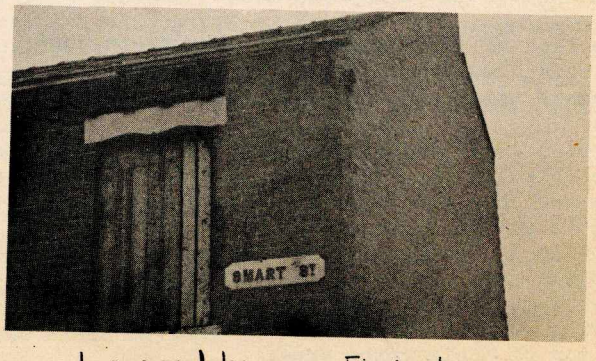
VICTORIA TERRACE. Here the fate hangs in the the balance because the Approved Line misses this street but the Proposed Line takes it.

MELDRETH DRIVE. Here the residents have joined together to fight the road proposals as they do not want to leave their homes where several of them have lived for 30 years; and they do not want to be split up from their neighbours.

The situation here is that the Approved Line took the whole street. The New Proposed Line, according to the GMC, takes only half. But as the spokesman said "The other half will be needed for environmental reasons. We'll probably take the lot".

The Town Hall Highways Dept on the other hand had a different story. They said the actual road, according to the Proposed Line, will take the whole of Meldreth Drive.

All enquiries to
GMC Highways Dept, Aytoun St.
Phone 247 3111 extension 296.



Council owned house. First they rebuilt the gable wall, then they bricked it up.

A6 CONTD.

RUSHFORD ST and everything to the East of Rushford St is CLEAR.

THE LUNCHEON CLUB on Kirky Lane, built only a few years ago, would have been affected by the Approved Line but under the New Proposed Line it will be quite safe.

STANLEY GROVE SCHOOL will go and a new one will be built on the site of the Albert Grove clearance area.

ST CYPRIANS AND THE PLAYGROUP. This is a story in itself!
The women who run the playgroup in the church hall have been in the dark about the future of the hall for many months. "With demolition right up to our doorstep and the hall needing repairs, we just don't know whether to stick it out while we get a new hall or if it's going to be years to wait we should try and raise some money to repair this place", said one of the women. It's a ramshackle building with broken windows and expensive to heat. They have to pay £5 a week to the church.

The GMC is willing to accept a blight notice for the church and the hall even though the Proposed Line doesn't go through the church, and to provide replacement buildings. There will not be a new church as St Cyprians will be merging with St Johns.

The Planners have left room for a new hall in their plans for the redevelopment of the Albert Grove clearance area but they're waiting for the go-ahead from the church.

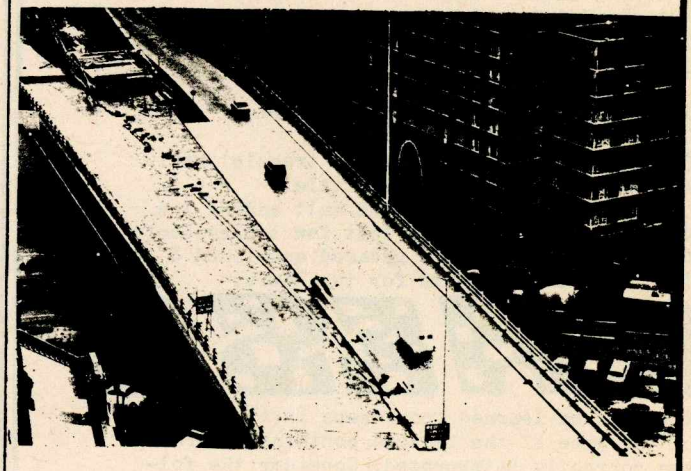
The C of E authorities seem to be the ones responsible for the delay in getting a new hall. The Diocesan Pastoral Committee has to give it's consent to the serving of the blight notice and for some reason it is holding back. The 2 main characters in this Pastoral Committee are Canon Hoyle of Rochdale and the Archdeacon of Manchester. We have approached these two men but failed to get any reply.

Meldreth Drive

4 When will it happen?

All urban motorway plans are being "re-thought" at the moment - ever since last April in fact. Many road plans are likely to be scaled down or dropped. However the A6 is more likely to go ahead. The Town Hall says a decision will be made "soon" - but it's not them who make the decision.

Assuming the road does go ahead, the GMC say it "will not be within the next 5 years". The town hall highways dept say they cannot give a any date, and the planning dept say "not before 1990". Take your pick.



5. What can be done now?

Some blighted houses in the area are already owned by the council and some are bricked up when they have got probably 15 more years' life to them and possibly more.

If owners do press ahead with selling to the council the remaining residents will face increasing numbers of empty houses with the problems of vandalism, rats, etc. There are 2 things residents could do to improve living conditions:
1. Press for empty houses to be repaired if necessary and relet.
2. If people who are not directly in the line of the road don't want to leave (eg. the Rushford St end of all the side-streets) they could press for only one half of the row to be knocked down. The authorities would have to provide some kind of insulation against noise from the new road.

If you don't want the road to be built at all...

Many people, including a few on the GMC are now rejecting the whole idea of people's homes being torn down for more and more motorways just for the sake of private transport when improved rail and bus services could do instead. If you feel like this and want to join people putting pressure on the council, contact Ken Childs, GREATER MANCHESTER TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP, 102 Millgate Lane, M/c 20.

Any other news or views about the A6, please send to Longsight News at 113 Hamilton Rd. We would particularly like to hear from anyone living in the affected area who has been refused a blight notice by the GMC.

recipe corner

DATE AND PEEL CAKE
Dried fruit is getting more and more expensive, making fruit cakes more of a luxury. Block dates however are less expensive than raisins or sultanas so try this recipe.

6oz flour (any sort but it is good with brown flour)
4oz moist brown sugar (or a bit less of white or demerare sugar + 1 desertspoon of black treacle)
4oz butter
¼ level teaspoon salt
8oz chopped dates
5oz candied peel
3 eggs

1. Prepare a slow oven. 275 or Mark 1
2. Chop the dates
3. Cream the fat and sugar (+ treacle) well
4. Beat in eggs little by little
5. Fold in sieved flour and salt adding the dates and peel with the last few tablespoonful
6. Pour mixture into a greased and lined 8 inch cake tin and bake for two hours.

CHESS

Much can be learned from traps in the opening of the game if the lessons contained therein are correctly interpreted. Consider the following:

1. P-K4, P-K4; 2. N-KB3, N-QB3
3. B-B4, B-B4; 4. P-Q3, N-B3;

The Giuoco Pianissimo or very quiet opening.

5. O-O, P-Q3;

(If here 5....P-Q4; 6. PxP! NxP;
7. R-K1, with pressure on the K file)

..... 6. B-KN5? P-KR3!
7. B-R4? P-KN4!! 8. B-N3, P_KR4!

(Now White is well and truly in the trap. If 9. P-KR3, P-N5! opening up against the white K. Or 9. P-Kr4, B-KN5! with a strong attack. So White goes into the attack. 9....P-R5 winning a piece was Black's threat)

9. NxP!, P-R5; 10. KnxP, PxB!!
11. NxQ, B-KN5; 12. Q-Q2, N-Q5!!

(White is lost. If now 13. P-KR3, N-K7ch; 14. K-R1, RxPch! 15. PxR, B-B6 Mate. If a Rook move then 13....N-B6ch; 14. Pxn, BxP! and White is helpless.)

13. N-B3, N-B6ch; 14. PxN, BxP;

(There is now no answer to the threat 15....PxRP Mate or if 15. RPxp, R-R8 Mate. 15. P-R3, RxP; only delays the Mate)

White resigns

The chief lesson to be learned is that of consistency. Set up the board again and move up to move five. White's idea of castling early is in order to centralise the rook for action in the centre. The consistent policy on move six would be 6. B-K3! putting the question to the black Bishop. If then 6....BxB; 7. PxB and the White Rook would operate on the open KB file. If 6. B-N3 then 7. N-B3 withP-Q4 to follow when convenient. The emphasis is on central action. Alternatively he might refrain from castling when 5. N-B3 followed by 6. B-KN5 or 6. B-K3 could follow. 5. P-B3 is also possible.

On the move 6. B-KN5? P-KR3; 7. B-K3! was still possible and had to be played. After 6. B-R4? the die is cast. Black is able to launch a vigorous attack on the castled White K because Black has not castled. So if you plan for a peaceful closed centre be wary about castling early. If you plan vigorous central action castle quickly. Wing attacks are disastrous against central attacks.

ADVERTISEMENTS

P L A Y L E A D E R
needed for a HAMILTON RD area summer playscheme.
Aug 11th - September 5th.
Pay £25 per week.
Willing to work with local people to organise outings, indoor activities and outdoor sports for young children.

Also voluntary and part-time helpers will be needed.
Apply to Yvonne Bennett,
16 Albert Place
or phone Maggie Walker 248 6640

*****

SUMMER PLAYSCHEME.
There will be a meeting for anyone interested in preparing for or helping at the play scheme on MONDAY APRIL 21st at 8pm, at 113 Hamilton Rd.

*****

HERBS
Want to grow herbs? The Mayors at St Agnes Rectory, Slade Lane, have some to spare.

*****

Chess evenings every Sunday 8pm at the Neighbourhood Centre, 113 Hamilton Rd Beginners welcome - free tuition. Bring a board if you have one.

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